

SWALMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

E. SEYMOUR, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.  
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Health Visitor

MISS O'BRYEN HODGE.

(Dorset County Council appointment)

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,  
12a. Institute Road,  
Swanage.

the Chairman and Members of the  
Swanage Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Swanage Urban District for the year 1943.

The total number of births was 79 giving a birth rate, per 1,000 of the population, of 16.2, as contrasted with a figure of 18.3 for the previous year. The total number of deaths from all causes was 97, giving a death rate of 19.9 as compared with 16.3 in 1942. There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year remained low, the only noteworthy increase was in the case of whooping cough - 45 cases - as compared with 10 cases in 1942. A mild epidemic of influenza occurred in December and declined in January 1944. There were no deaths due to infectious disease.

Nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and four new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were ratified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Work under the scheme for immunisation of children against diphtheria was carried out as in previous years. As the result of the national and local advertising campaign parents are more readily bringing their children to be immunised; prejudice against inoculation is rarely met with now that parents realise that the procedure causes little, if any, discomfort to the child. The percentage of the child population under 5 years of age considered immunised rose from 45.7% in 1942 to 80.6%, whilst in the 5 to 15 years group the percentage rose from 67.7% to 75%. The excellent results achieved during the year have in great part been due to the efforts of the County Health Visitor in urging parents to have their children immunised as soon as they reach the age of one year.

The results of bacteriological examination of water from the Corfe Castle Source emphasizes the need for the additional treatment of this water, which the Council intend to provide as soon as possible. It has been recommended that this source should ultimately be abandoned and a more satisfactory source of supply found. It is hoped that the plans for this purpose, which the Council are now considering, will be approved by the Ministry of Health and that the scheme will materialize shortly after the end of the war.

Although housing problems in Swanage are not so acute as in other parts of the country, housing conditions are such that they cannot be viewed with complacency. There are many houses lacking in the ordinary amenities required for a minimum standard of comfort and health. Many houses have deteriorated during the war years and there are now houses occupied which by peace time standards would be considered only fit for demolition. There is a demand for better houses and this is borne out by the large list of applicants for council houses. This demand will increase when the war is over as many of the younger people who have deferred making a home will want to settle in homes of their own.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration and support, and also to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation and the efficient manner in which he has carried out his many duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

area. - 2760 acres, with a further 31 acres of foreshore.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of

(a) Resident Population, Mid. 1943	..	..	..	)
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	..	..	..	)
				4,870

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to the rate book .. 1,981

Rateable value .. .. .. .. .. £70,054

Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .. .. .. £256-2-9

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births } Legitimate	70	37	33	) Birth rate per 1,000 estimated	
Illegitimate	9	5	4	) resident population	.. 16.2
Still Births } Legitimate	1	-	1	) Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	) births .. ..	12.5
Deaths	97	39	58	) Death rate per 1,000 estimated	
				) average population ..	19.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</u>
No. 29. Puer: & post-abort: sepsis.	-	-
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	..	-
Total	..	-

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages)	..	..	-

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates  
during the Year 1943.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births			
England and Wales	16.5	0.51	12.1	49	5.3
148 Smaller Towns: estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	19.4	0.61	12.7	46	4.4
SWANAGE	16.2	0.20	19.9	-	-

Maternal Mortality:-

	Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Puerperal Infections	Other
England and Wales	0.34	0.11	0.39	1.45
SWANAGE	-	-	-	-

There were no special noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year in the services provided in the area.

#### Ambulance Service.

The ambulance was called out on 147 occasions and the total mileage travelled was 3,767.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Water Supply.

There was no change in the sources of water supply or its treatment during the year. Samples of raw and treated water are taken at regular intervals for bacteriological examination. Dosage of water with chlorine is controlled by regular estimations at the pumping station and checked by chlorine estimations at the County Laboratory.

Number of water samples taken for Bacteriological Examination:-

	<u>Untreated</u>	<u>Treated</u>
Corfe Castle Source	45	83
Ulwell Source	43	45
Samples taken from taps in the Town		5
Total number of samples taken	...	221

Results of Bacteriological Examination:-

##### Untreated Water

B. Coli per 100 ml.	Samples from Corfe Castle Well.	Samples from Ulwell Well.
Nil	7	29
1-2	4	6
3-10	6	5
10-25	3	2
25-100	16	1
100-150	-	-
Over 150	9	-
Total Samples	45	43

##### Treated Water

B. Coli per 100 ml.	Samples from Corfe Castle Wells	Samples from Corfe Castle Supply at Ulwell	Samples from Ulwell Supply
Nil	43	32	45
1-2	1	2	-
3-10	-	2	-
10-25	-	3	-
Total Samples	44	39	45

B. Coli was absent from five samples taken from household taps in Swanage.

The quality of the untreated water from the Corfe Castle Source deteriorates rapidly following heavy rainfall, which necessitates the suspension of pumping from this source. The type of B. Coli in the higher counts is faecal and in the lower aerogenous. The type of B. Coli in the untreated water from the Ulwell Source is invariably aerogenous.

The Council are proceeding with plans for additional treatment of the water from the Corfe Castle Source and for an alternative source which will eventually supersede it.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections ..	..	..	..	..	1,700
Number of informal notices ..	..	..	..	..	110
" " " " complied with ..	..	..	..	..	91
" " " outstanding ..	..	..	..	..	9
" " statutory " ..	..	..	..	..	5
" " " complied with ..	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year Leeson House, which is situated without the Urban Area, was connected to the Swanage Sewerage System by means of a new 6" stoneware sewer, approximately 800 yards in length.

A new 6" sewer, 150 yards in length, was also laid during the year in order to bring three isolated properties situated on the boundary of the district into the main system.

Drain Testing, etc.

Existing drains examined ..	..	..	..	..	75
Cesspools, filter beds etc. examined at Corfe Castle (Water Shed) ..	..	..	..	..	4
Choked drains cleared ..	..	..	..	..	32
Defective drains repaired ..	..	..	..	..	4
Existing drains reconstructed ..	..	..	..	..	3
Old drains abolished ..	..	..	..	..	10
New drains constructed ..	..	..	..	..	54
Sub-soil drains reconstructed ..	..	..	..	..	8
Broken drains sealed off ..	..	..	..	..	5
New sewer connections examined ..	..	..	..	..	5
Cast-iron cover replaced ..	..	..	..	..	3
New vent pipes provided ..	..	..	..	..	2
Stone manhole covers abolished ..	..	..	..	..	3
New manholes constructed ..	..	..	..	..	14
Water tests applied ..	..	..	..	..	38
Smoke tests applied ..	..	..	..	..	5
Colour tests applied ..	..	..	..	..	7
New urinals provided ..	..	..	..	..	1
New lavatory basins installed ..	..	..	..	..	1
Revisits in respect to the above ..	..	..	..	..	56

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ..	..	..	..	..	208
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose ..	..	..	..	..	339
2. (a) No. of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ..	..	..	..	..	35
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose ..	..	..	..	..	51
3. No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	..	..	..	..	2
4. No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	..	..	..	..	13

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	..	..
		76

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.				
1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	..	..	..	..
2. No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-				
a. By Owners ..	..	..	..	..
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	..	..	..	..

5

15

(h) Proceedings under Public Health Act.

1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	..	..	..	..	..	5
2. No. of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of notices:-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	-
a. By owners .....	..	..	..	..	..	5
b. by Local Authority in default of owners .....	..	..	..	..	..	-

Lincoln Oct., 1956 (Part II) Overcrowding.

1. Total families overcrowded at end of year ..	..	..	2
2. No. of families in filing thoracix ..	..	..	2
3. No. of other non-dwelling thoracix ..	..	..	10
) No. of instances of overcrowding reported during the year ..	..	2	
4. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	..	..	
5. No. of persons concerned in such cases ..	..	..	

... all property which was deemed to be unfit for human habitation was  
blown down or closed by the owner during the year. Another house was finally  
demolished under the provisions of Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936, and in the reo-  
ganized court proceedings were instituted in respect of necessary repairs.

## New Houses.

Total No. of New Houses erected during 1943 by the Local Authority.. ..  
 No. of Houses owned by the Local Authority .. .. .. 171  
 Approximate No. of working class houses in district .. .. .. 1,000

## SECTION ON THE SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Milk Supply.

The samples of cat milk were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for a test for the presence of mastitis streptococci. In one case the report was positive. The facts were reported to the County Veterinary Inspector for any necessary action.

Periodic inspections of pasteurising establishments were made and all thermometers used in the plant were checked against a standard test thermometer.

What was being done just before outbreak of war to improve the conditions under which milk was produced at the small dairy farms in the district. Moral standard of cowsheds and dairies must be regarded as poor. The facilities are poor and inadequate facilities for cleansing of milk vessels and the milkmaid's hands are absent in nearly all cases. Every dairy farm should have a water closet, with a lavatory basin, hot and cold water supply, and clean towels where the dairy worker's hands can be thoroughly cleansed before milking or handling milk.

Milk (Special Resignations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

The following licences were in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941 at the end of the year:-

Number of Pasteurising Establishments	..	..	..	2
" Accredited Milk Producers	..	..	..	3
" Tuberculin Tested Producers	..	..	..	1
" " Dairies Licensed to bottle pasteurised milk in addition to above ..	..	..	..	1
Number of Dairies selling pasteurised milk under Supplementary Licences	..	..	..	1

Pastourised Milk.

all samples of pasteurised milk taken .. ..	15
all samples which passed the phosphatase test .. ..	13
" " " failed to pass the phosphatase test .. ..	2 (3 units) & 3.5 "

Meat and Food Inspection.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses .. ..	19
" " " Meat Shops .. ..	105
" " " Government Meat Vans .. ..	14
" " " Fish Shops .. ..	20
" " " Bakeries .. ..	53
" " " Grocers Shops etc. .. ..	40

Meat Inspection.

Reported Meat Inspected:-

Boneless Fors .. ..	278
" Hinds .. ..	325
Straight Fors .. ..	10
Sheep and Lambs .. ..	3,949
Pork Loins .. ..	35,270 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs.
Hams .. ..	361
Calves .. ..	3
Sides Veal .. ..	58
Boston Butts .. ..	2709 lbs.

Meat Filled:-

(a) Bodios Beef .. ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
(b) " " .. ..	55
(c) Sheep .. ..	446
(b) " .. ..	135
(c) Calves .. ..	86
(c) " .. ..	129
(a) Pigs .. ..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
(n) Body Beef (manufacturing) .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$

Meat inspected at Dorchester - Government Abattoir:-

Powdered Eggs .. ..	108
Calves .. ..	36
Sheep .. ..	324
Pigs .. ..	21
Goats .. ..	17

Amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption .. 7,295 lbs.

Condemned Food:-

Tins Evaporated Milk .. ..	47
" Condensed " .. ..	18
" Egg .. ..	12
" Boiled Mutton .. ..	6
" Ox Tongue .. ..	1
" Corned Beef .. ..	73
" Pork Luncheon Meat .. ..	13
" Chopped Pork .. ..	3
" Pilchards .. ..	1
" Salmon .. ..	1
" Plums .. ..	2
" Beans .. ..	15
Boiled Ham .. ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Carrison (picces) .. ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Bacon " .. ..	23 lbs. 7 lbs.
" (smoked) .. ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chocso .. ..	11 "
Butter .. ..	1 "
Linen Pies .. ..	75
Cranges .. ..	46
Split Peas .. ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.

Food unfit for sale over the counter:-

Sugar ..	..	..	..	..	..	48 lbs.
Tins Diced Carrots ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
" Pilchards ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" Vegetable Salad ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
" Evaporated Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
" Dried Egg ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
" Soup ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Brussel Sprouts ..	..	..	..	..	..	20 lbs.
Pavoy Cabbages ..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Condemed for other reasons:-

Jars Bramble Jolly Jam ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
" Mixed Jam ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Pork Pies ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bottles Grapto Fruit ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butter ..	..	..	..	..	..	1½ lbs.
Sausage Meat ..	..	..	..	..	..	25 "
Eggs ..	..	..	..	..	..	6 "
Stewing Beef ..	..	..	..	..	..	10 "
Prunes ..	..	..	..	..	..	"
Tea ..	..	..	..	..	..	1 "
Peas ..	..	..	..	..	..	7 "
Self Raisin Flour ..	..	..	..	..	..	60 "
Cooking Fat ..	..	..	..	..	..	12 "

Inspections other than those previously included:-

British Restaurant ..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Salvage of Food ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Emergency Food Supplies ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Billots ..	..	..	..	..	..	46
First Aid Post ..	..	..	..	..	..	15
In respect to Gas Masks ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
" " " Kingsgarn Sick Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	16
" " " Other Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Disinfections due to Infectious Disease, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Visits in respect to Verminous Persons ..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Revisits in respect to the above ..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Miscellaneous visits to premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Liquorics ..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Public Conveniences ..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Rent Restrictions Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public Tip ..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Factories and Workshops ..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Rat Repression ..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Rivers and Streams ..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Cinomas ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Stables ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Second-hand Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Shops Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Enclosed Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Smoke Abatement ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Certificates of Essentiality (Essential Repairs to Houses) ..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Water Sampling, Milk Sampling, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	..	39

Under the Rat Infestation Order, 1943, a 6" map of the Council's Administrative Area in respect of the Order showing the points and degree of infestation for the district, was submitted to the Ministry of Food in addition to a written report.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	2	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Erysipelas	8	-	-
Measles	10	-	-
Whooping Cough	45	-	-

Notification Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Small Towns	SWANAGE
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.08	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.54	0.41
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.25	9.24
Diphtheria	0.88	0.77	0.41
Erysipelas	0.31	0.27	1.64
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.88	9.77	2.05
Pneumonia	1.34	1.16	0.82

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I.

Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1943

Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over, but under 15	Total
105	60	165

II.

(A) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 31st December, 1943

Under 5	Between 5 & 15
289	1010

(B) Percentage of the child population shown under (A) considered immunised at 31st December, 1943

80.6% ..... 75.8% .....

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement, and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.)

One case of diphtheria occurred during the year in a child under the age of 5 years. The child had not been immunised.

Disinfection of Bedding, Clothing, and Rooms.

Scabies	...	...	30 (9 from Warenham Rural District and Warenham Borough Council)
Tuberculosis	...	11	
Scarlet Fever	...	4	
Cancer	...	13	
Diphtheria	...	2	
Erysipelas	...	2	
Vermous Persons	...	1	

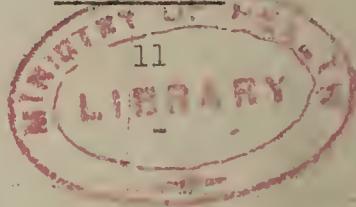
21 Babios Gas Masks were disinfected during the year.

In addition to the above 8 premises were treated for flea infestation and 1 for bed bugs. Two A.R.P. posts were cleansed and disinfected during the year and 2 hospital wards disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

Treatment of Scabies and Verminous Conditions.

The following are particulars of the number of cases treated at the Lousing Section of the First Aid Post "Playland":-

	Scabies.	Verminous Condition of Scalp.
Children	... ... 21	11
Adults	... ... 21	



Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1943:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...							
1	...							
5	...							
10	...							
15	...							
20	...				1			
25	...				2			
35	...		1			1		
45	...	1						
55	...	2						
65 and upwards	...	1	2		2			
 Totals	...	4	5	1	3	-	1	-

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1943:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
12	8	20	4	7	11	31